

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A power planer comprising:

a base defining a reference surface;

a cutterhead that defines a cutting plane;

a carriage assembly housing the cutterhead;

a carriage elevation mechanism coupling the carriage assembly to the base to thereby permit a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane to be adjusted; and

a height setting device for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between a first stop and a second stop, the first stop defining a datum and being threadably coupled to one of the base and the carriage assembly to permit a distance between the datum and the reference surface to be selectively adjusted, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the base and the carriage assembly, the second stop including an adjustment portion that is rotatably mounted about a pivot point, the adjustment portion being segregated into a plurality of sectors, each of the sectors having a sector surface that is configured to be selectively abutted against the first stop when the carriage assembly is lowered toward the base, each of the sector surfaces being spaced outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance, each predetermined distance being related to an associated one of the plurality of predetermined dimensions.

2. The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein the second stop includes a pin and a bushing, the pin being removably received into the bushing.

3. The portable power planer of Claim 2, wherein the pin is selectable from a group of differently sized pins.

4. The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein contact between the first stop and the second stop prevents the distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being adjusted below a predetermined minimum distance.

5. The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein each of the sector surfaces is arcuate in shape.

6. The portable power planer of Claim 5, wherein each of the sector surfaces is defined by a predetermined radius.

7. The portable power planer of Claim 5, wherein each of the sector surfaces extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the sectors.

8. The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein each of the sector surfaces extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the sectors.

9. The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein a portion of the first stop that is configured to contact the sector surfaces is arcuate in shape.

10. The portable power planer of Claim 1, wherein the second stop further includes a detent for resisting relative rotation between the adjustment portion and the other one of the base and the carriage assembly.

11. A portable power planer comprising:

a base defining a reference surface;

a carriage that is movable relative to the base along an axis;

a cutting tool that is carried by the carriage, the cutting tool defining a cutting plane;

a setting device having a first stop and a second stop, the first stop being coupled to one of the base and the carriage, the second stop being coupled to the other one of the base and the carriage, the setting device being operable for preventing a distance between the reference surface and the cutting plane from being set to a dimension that is smaller than a selected dimension, the selected dimension being selected from a plurality of predetermined dimensions that are defined by contact between the first and second stops when the carriage is moved toward the base.

12. The portable power planer of Claim 11, wherein the first stop includes a threaded member and a jam nut, the threaded member being threadably coupled to the one of the base and the carriage, the jam nut being threadably engaged to the threaded member so as to fixedly but removably secure the threaded member to the one of the base and the carriage.

13. The portable power planer of Claim 12, wherein the first stop further comprises a pin for contacting the second stop.

14. The portable power planer of Claim 13, wherein the pin is selectable from a group of differently sized pins.

15. The portable power planer of Claim 14, wherein the second stop includes an adjustment portion that is rotatably mounted to the other one of the base and the carriage about a pivot point.

16. The portable power planer of Claim 15, wherein the adjustment portion includes a plurality of predetermined contact points, each of the contact points being spaced outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance, each predetermined distance corresponding to an associated one of the plurality of predetermined dimensions.

17. The portable power planer of Claim 16, wherein each of the contact points is arcuate in shape.

18. The portable power planer of Claim 17, wherein each of the contact points is defined by a predetermined radius.

19. The portable power planer of Claim 17, wherein each of the contact points extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the contact points.

20. The portable power planer of Claim 11, wherein the second stop includes an adjustment portion that is rotatably mounted to the other one of the base and the carriage about a pivot point.

21. The portable power planer of Claim 20, wherein the adjustment portion includes a plurality of predetermined contact points, each of the contact points being spaced outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance, each predetermined distance corresponding to an associated one of the plurality of predetermined dimensions.

22. The portable power planer of Claim 21, wherein each of the contact points is arcuate in shape.

23. The portable power planer of Claim 22, wherein each of the contact points is defined by a predetermined radius.

24. The portable power planer of Claim 22, wherein each of the contact points extends continuously between an adjacent pair of the contact points.

25. The portable power planer of Claim 20, wherein the first stop is coupled to the base and the second stop is coupled to the carriage.

26. The portable power planer of Claim 20, wherein the second stop further includes a detent for resisting relative rotation between the adjustment portion and the other one of the base and the carriage assembly.

27. A method for adjusting a dimension between a power planer blade and a power planer base, the power planer blade being rotatably supported by a carriage and defining a cutting plane, the power planer base defining a reference plane, the method comprising:

coupling a first stop to the power planer base;

providing a second stop with an adjustment portion, the adjustment portion including a plurality of contact points;

rotatably coupling the adjustment portion to the carriage about a pivot point such that each of the contact points is spaced radially outwardly from the pivot point by a different predetermined distance;

rotating the adjustment portion about the pivot point to select a given one of the contact points; and

lowering the carriage toward the base so that the first stop contacts the given one of the contact points.